

# MSHA Quarterly Training/Stakeholder Call

## Fatal Accidents Involving Miners Working Alone

April 25, 2017

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# Agenda

12:30pm - Jeff Duncan	Welcome and Introduction of Deputy Assistant Secretary Patricia Silvey
12:35pm - Patricia Silvey	Opening Remarks
12:40pm - Larry Trainor	Serious Accident Review: MNM
Marcus Smith	Serious Accident Review: Coal
Marcus Smith	Fatal Accident Review: Coal
Marcus Smith	Working Alone Fatal Accident Review: Coal
Larry Trainor	Working Alone Fatal Accident Review: MNM
Marvin Lichtenfels	Working Alone Initiative
1:05pm -	Questions
1:20pm -	Closing Remarks

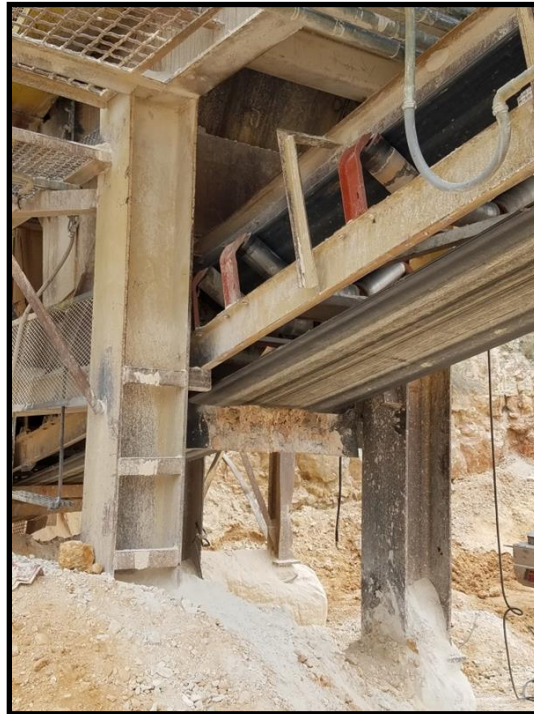


# Serious Accident Review



# Metal and Nonmetal Serious Accident

The victim had just finished welding on the plant's crusher and decided to jump off the next to the last step of a fixed ladder to reach the ground. When the victim hit the ground, he fell backwards and was impaled by a pry bar that was left standing upright on the ground. The victim suffered severe injuries as a result of this accident.



# Coal Serious Accident

On February 8, 2017, a bulldozer rolled over the highwall edge at a surface mine and landed on the bench below. The operator was able to extricate himself from the machine but suffered fractured ribs.



# Fatalities

Since January 1, 2017 there have been 8 Fatal accidents:

- 5 Coal
- 3 MNM



# Fatal Accidents Coal





On February 3, 2017, a 54-year-old truck driver received hip and leg fractures when he jumped from the cab of his truck as it was overturning. The victim positioned the truck on the dump pad and began raising the bed. Material in the bed was frozen or compacted and created an uneven load. As the bed reached full extension, the truck fell over. Due to complications associated with his injuries, the victim passed away 7 days later.

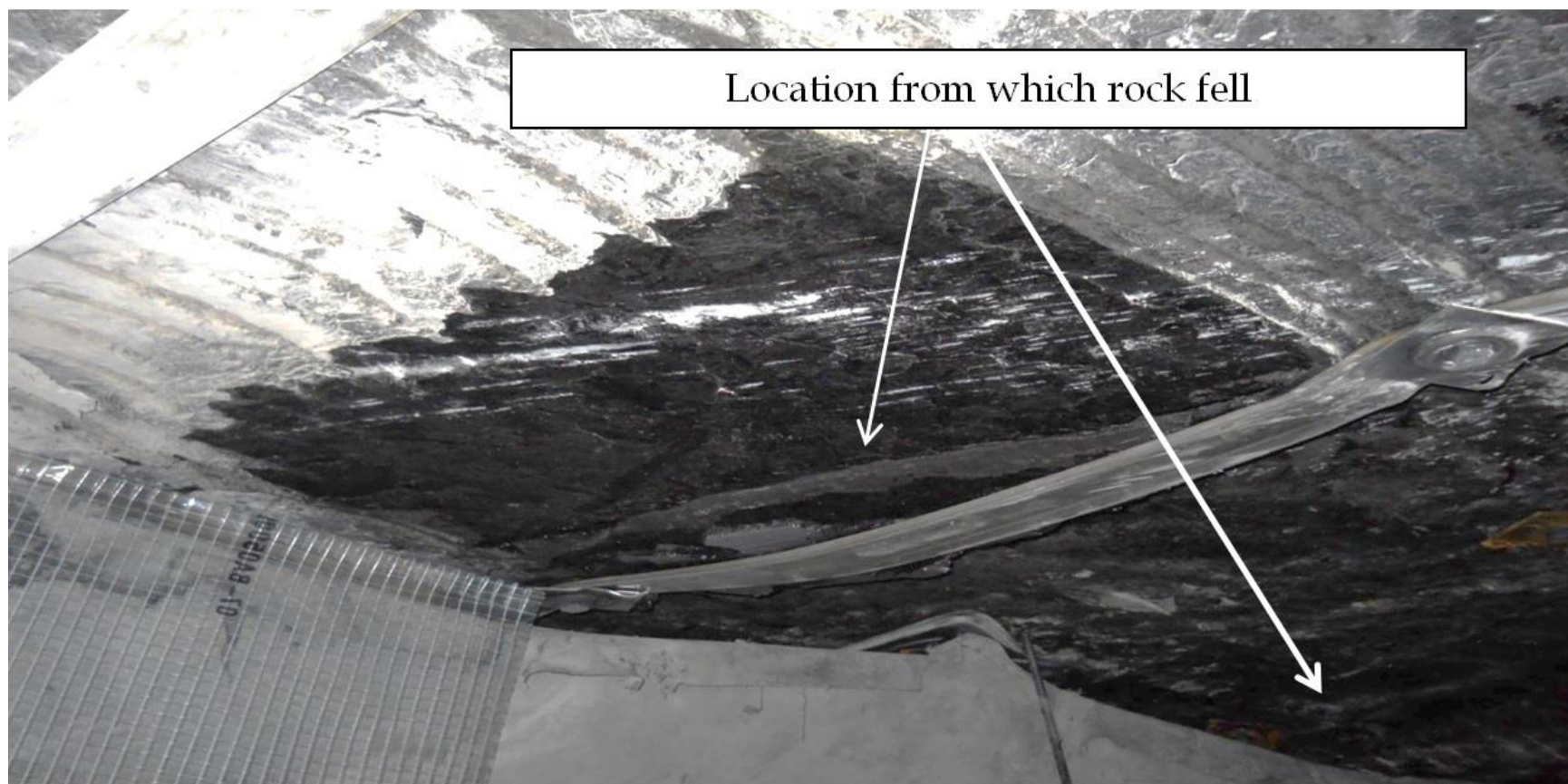




On March 30, 2017, at 2:09 am, a 33-year-old miner (auger operator/foreman) was fatally injured at a surface auger mine. The miner was struck by a rock that fell from the bottom section of the highwall while changing worn cutter-head bits located at the front of the auger machine. The rock was approximately 4 feet by 5 feet by 30 inches in size.



On February 23, 2017, a 62-year-old section foreman was seriously injured by falling roof rock in the No. 3 entry of the active working section. The rock fell from between roof bolts and was approximately 3 feet by 2 feet by 3 to 4 inches thick. First-aid was administered and the injured miner was transported to a medical center. Due to medical complications from the injuries he sustained, the victim died on April 6, 2017.



# Working Alone Fatalities

MSHA Alert – January 2017 – Working Alone

<https://www.msha.gov/news-media/events/2017/02/02/alert-recent-fatalities-working-alone-and-hazardous-restricted-areas%E2%80%99>



# Coal “Working Alone” Fatalities

Of the five fatal accidents that have occurred in the coal mining industry since January 1, 2017, two involved miners who were working alone.

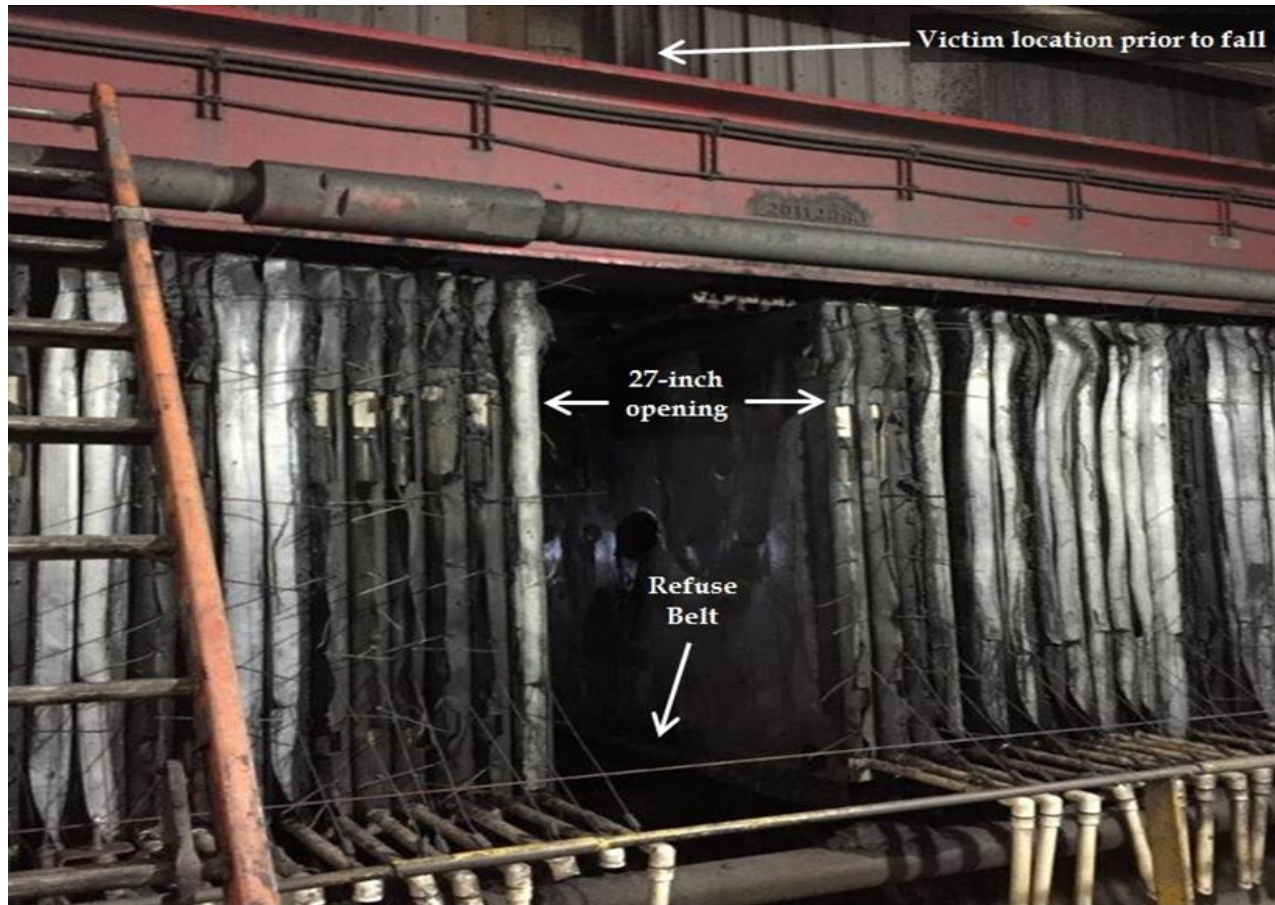




On Thursday, January 26, 2017, a 42-year-old miner was fatally injured when he contacted a moving drive roller for the section belt. The victim was positioned between the guard and the conveyor belt drive when he came in contact with the shaft of the belt drive roller.



On February 27, 2017, a 43-year-old plant attendant was fatally injured when he fell through a 27-inch opening in a plate press. The victim had climbed a ladder to repair a damaged plate when he fell about 19 feet onto a moving refuse belt. The victim was found in a transfer chute, approximately 55 feet down the belt from where he had fallen.



# Metal and Nonmetal “Working Alone” Fatalities

All three fatal accidents that have occurred in the metal and nonmetal mining industry since January 1, 2017, involved miners who were working alone.





On January 25, 2017, a miner was found in an underground limestone mine after failing to exit the mine at the end of the shift. The miner was located under material that had fallen from the rib in an area of the mine that had been barricaded to prevent entry due to bad roof and rib conditions.



On March 14, 2017, an independent owner/operator truck driver was engulfed by sand falling out of the dump trailer while the trailer was in the raised position.



On March 24, 2017, the victim exited his personal flat bed truck, which was left running in 6th gear, to turn off the genset (diesel generator). Prior to ascending the steps to the diesel generator, it appears the flat bed truck moved forward and pinned him against the genset building. The victim was found on Monday (3/27/17) and pronounced dead at the scene.



# Best Practices for Mine Operators

## “Miners Working Alone”

- Make an assessment to determine if the task can be safely completed by a miner working alone
- Provide training to assure the miner can safely complete the task while working alone
- Provide the miner with clear direction regarding any limits to work that can be completed while working alone
- Train miners to conduct risk assessments and encourage them to always conduct a risk assessment before work begins (SLAM RISKS)



# Best Practices for Mine Operators

## “Miners Working Alone”

- Know where the miner will be at all times
- Establish and follow routine communication procedures
- Account for miners working alone at intervals appropriate to the job assignment
- Account for all miners at the end of each job assignment and at the end of each work shift



# Best Practices for “Miners Working Alone”

- Think about the task
  - Do you have adequate training, knowledge, skills and equipment to do the job safely?
  - Do you need help?
- Always inform a responsible person where you will be working and traveling in the mine
- Before beginning any task, identify hazards (SLAM RISKS)
- Can you correct or otherwise isolate the hazard(s)?
  - If not, report the hazard(s) to your supervisor



# Best Practices for “Miners Working Alone”

- Always use the proper tools or equipment to do the job
- Don't take shortcuts, do the job safely
- Follow established communication procedures
- Use established check-in/check-out procedures to assure you are accounted for
- Remember, it's your safety! Protect it!





# SLAM

- Stop – stop and consider the work involved
  - Think through the entire task
- Look – look for and identify the hazards for each job step
- Analyze – determine if you have the knowledge, training and tools to do the task safely
- Manage – remove or isolate the hazards and use proper tools to complete the task



# RISKS

- Remember - to look for changes
- Identify - all potential risks
- Share - what you find with others impacted by the job and the risks
- Know - what others on your jobsite are doing
- Safety - is everyone's job!



Make SLAM RISKS part of your  
every-task routine!



# May 2017

## Working Alone Initiative



# Beginning May 1, 2017 MSHA Inspectors and Training Specialists will focus inspections and mine visits on miners tasked to work alone

## TALKING POINTS

- 5 miners (3 MNM and 2 Coal) in 2017 were fatally injured while working alone
- Best Practices for Miners Working Alone
  - Think about the task
    - Do you have adequate training, knowledge, skills and equipment to do the job safely?
    - Do you need help to complete the task safely?
  - Always inform a responsible person where you will be working and traveling in the mine
  - Before beginning any task, identify hazards (**SLAM RISKS**)
  - Can you correct or otherwise isolate the hazard(s)?
    - If not, report the hazard(s) to your supervisor
  - Always use the proper tools or equipment to do the job
  - Don't take shortcuts, do the job safely
  - Follow established communications procedures
  - Use established check-in/check-out procedures to assure you are accounted for
  - It's your safety! Protect it!
- Remember to make **SLAM RISKS** part of your every-task routine!
  - **Stop** – stop and consider the work involved, think through the entire task
  - **Look** – look for and identify the hazards for each job step
  - **Analyze** – determine if you have the knowledge, training and tools to do the task safely
  - **Manage** – remove or isolate the hazards and use proper tools to complete the task



# Questions

